

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 /100 W

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P 100803Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4608

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

UNCLAS LUSAKA 3302

GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, WA, RH

SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA PREPARE FOR WAR SAYS MCBRIDE

1. SEAN MCBRIDE IS QUOTED IN DEC 10 DAILY MAIL AS SAYING THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS MADE PREPARATIONS TO INVADE ANGOLA NEXT MONTH. INTERVIEWED IN LUSAKA DEC 9, THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA SAID THAT ABOUT 50,000 SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS HAVE BEEN MASSED IN THE CAPRIVI STRIP AND ALONG THE ANGOLAN BORDER FOR THE INTENDED ASSAULT ON ANGOLA. A FIRST STEP IN PREPARATION FOR THE ATTACK WOULD BE THE SETTING UP OF A "QUISLING INTERIM GOVERNMENT IN NAMIBIA TOWARDS THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY." THIS GOVERNMENT WOULD EXCLUDE SWAPO; THEREFORE SWAPO WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE "PUPPET REGIME." SWAPO ATTACKS WILL PROVIDE SOUTH AFRICA WITH A PRETEXT FOR INVADING ANGOLA IN ORDER TO COME TO THE ASSISTANCE OF THE "INTERIM GOVERNMENT" IN NAMIBIA. MCBRIDE SAID, "I AM VERY CONCERNED. THE SITUATION IS EXTREMELY SERIOUS. FROM THE MIDDLE OF JANUARY WE ARE ENTERING A NEW SITUATION WHICH MAY INVOLVE THE DESTABILIZATION OF ANGOLA." IF SOUTH AFRICA PERSISTS WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "QUISLING GOVERNMENT"

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IN NAMIBIA, IT WILL CREATETHE SCENARIO THAT EXISTED IN ANGOLA.

MCBRIDE SAID, "IT IS THE KIND OF SITUATION IN WHICH SWAPO CAN
CALL FOR OUTSIDE HELP FROM THE OAU, ANGOLA, AND OTHERS."

2. THE BUILD UP OF BASES IN RHODESIA, SAID MCBRIDE, "CERTAINLY
CONTRADICTS SMITH'S REPORTED INTENTION FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT."
HE SAID THAT ONE OF THE NEW AIR BASES WAS SITUATED IN THE CAPRIVI
STRIP, THE OTHER NEAR THE MOZAMBIQUE BORDER AND THE OTHER SOMEWHERE
IN NORTHWESTERN RHODESIA.

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